

## **January 9, 2020**

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Walter Clark Board Chambers, January 9, 2020 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Smith, and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

### **A. Call to Order**

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **B. Roll Call**

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager, Assistant Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney were present.

### **C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Smathers asked for a moment of silence in memory of the two residents that passed away due to the flu in Canton. Mayor Smathers called on Mrs. Pam Kearse for the Invocation. Mayor Smathers called on Alderman Shepard to lead the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **D. Approval of Minutes: November 14, and December 9, 2019**

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the November 14, 2019 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the December 9, 2019 minutes as presented. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **E. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Smathers stated that he wanted to congratulate the newly formed business district group and Town staff for an enormous turnout during the Christmas season to the downtown Canton area. Mayor Smathers stated that he looked forward to building on this and making it bigger and better in the future not only for Christmas but throughout the year.

Mayor Smathers stated that he felt the Board needed to foster the newly formed merchant group and to provide support as they work to grow and establish themselves. The entire Board was complimentary of the progress and work the merchants

were doing to help bolster the economy downtown but also suggested that maybe the entire Town could be included so that the impact could be felt Town wide. The Board asked the Manager to help foster a meeting with all the businesses.

### **F. Aldermen/women Comments**

Alderwoman Smith stated that she agreed that the downtown corridor was festive and well visited during the holidays and it was great to see. Alderwoman Smith stated that she was happy to see the recycling program implementation and stated that she had been asked several questions regarding what would be picked up. Manager Burrell stated that two forms of communication regarding the project had already been distributed to the public and when the carts were delivered, the information and instructions would be a packet inside the cart with the information on what and how to recycle.

Alderwoman Mull stated that the Round-about project seemed to be working well and that the flow of traffic was much better. Alderwoman Mull thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Alderman Hamlett encouraged everyone to get a flu shot not only to protect themselves but others around them. Alderman Hamlett also thanked all law enforcement for the jobs they did everyday to keep us safe not only in observance of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day but every day! Alderman Hamlett also stated that he was happy to have a seat beside the newly elected Alderman, Tim Shepard.

Alderman Shepard thanked everyone for the heartfelt welcoming that he had received also stating that he looked forward to helping make Canton a better place to live. Alderman Shepard stated that he was proud to be part of the Canton community.

### **G. Public Comments**

Mr. Adam Bridges and Mr. Shane Pope thanked the Board for their support for the Urban Lions Assault last year. Mr. Bridges stated that they had over 120 racers and would like to see that number double this year at the event. Mr. Bridges asked the Board if they would approve the Lions Urban Assault to take place on May 16, 2020. The Board by consensus agreed to hold the date and asked Mr. Bridges to submit the co-sponsorship application and supporting documentation for

official approval in February. The Board thanked Mr. Bridges and Mr. Pope for a well organized and well attended event.

## **H. Reports from the Manager**

Manager Burrell presented the cash report.

Manager Burrell stated that the Town would be delivering recycling carts in January with the necessary documentation for the recycling program. Manager Burrell explained to the Board residents would utilize blue bags until February 1, 2020. After February 1, 2020 the carts must be used and that blue bags would no longer be picked up. Manager Burrell stated that with new programs issues always pop up, however, this would be a good program for Canton, surrounding towns, and the environment.

Manager Burrell suggested that the Board have a work session on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 11:00am following the Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast. All members agreed to this date and time.

Manager Burrell reported that he and Assistant Manager Scheuer had applied for TDA 1% percent grant to fund an outside movie projector package to host movies at the Recreation Park and Sorrells Street Park. Manager Burrell stated that they had applied for monies from the Dogwood/Ion Foundation to help with the cost of the projector, rental of movies, and to purchase new playground equipment at the Recreation Park. Manager Burrell stated that he would keep the Board posted on the grants.

## **J. Old Business**

N/A

## **K. New Business**

### **1. Beaverdam Creek Dam Removal: Eric Romaniszyn, Haywood Waterways.**

Manager Burrell introduced Mr. Eric Romaniszyn from Haywood Waterways. Mr. Romaniszyn explained to the Board that the removal of the Beaverdam Creek Dam had been discussed for several years and at this point it was in the design phase of what happens when the dam is removed. Mr. Romaniszyn

explained that at this time they were exploring grant funding, however, the process required the request to come from a municipality. Mr. Rom stated that this would be in name only for the Town and that the Town would not have any cost for the project. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to apply for the funding for the Beaverdam Creek Dam Removal Project. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Alderman Shepard inquired of the timeline for the removal. Mr. Roman explained that the application was due by June 30, 2020 and that if awarded the grant, construction would be near Spring 2021. All members voted in favor of the motion.

## 2. Pisgah Softball Field Property Agreement

Manager Burrell presented a Resolution to the Board to gift the Haywood County School System the property where the Pisgah Softball Field is located with a reverted clause in the agreement. This gift of property is to allow lights to be added to the area for extended usage and tournaments. Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderman Shepard seconded the motion. Alderman Shepard stated that this helps to allow time for the JV teams to be able to play as well. Motion carried.

## 3. School Safety Grant

Manager Burrell introduced Captain Scott Sluder from the Canton Police Department. Captain Sluder updated the Board that he had applied for and received the North Carolina School Safety Grant to allow them to purchase equipment that would help to keep the students safe while attending school. Since recent school shootings around the country have happened it makes it important now more than ever to always keep the officers trained and equipped to handle situations such as these. Captain Sluder stated that the equipment needed to be purchased now but would be reimbursed when grant monies were received. Manager Burrell stated that this could be achieved by a budget amendment. Manager Burrell thanked Captain Sluder for applying for and administering grant funds. Alderwoman Smith thanked Captain Sluder for being proactive and keeping the community safe. Alderman Hamlett thanked Scott for all of his grant writing efforts and working hard to provide for his officers.

#### 4. MLK Jr. Prayer Breakfast Donation Request

Alderman Hamlett made a motion to approve the back-cover ad in the amount of \$150.00. Alderwoman Mull seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

#### **L. Adjournment:**

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Colonial Theatre. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 7.17 p.m.

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Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk